

MONA CHAREN

If your child's high school is handing out condoms, cheer up. Things could be worse. It could be sponsoring indoctrination by the Gay Men's Health Crisis, as New York has done.

The New York City Department of Education, unchastened by the ouster of former schools superintendent Joseph Fernandez over the Rainbow Curriculum, has sponsored a so-called "peer-educators" conference organized by the Gay Men's Health Crisis. In the guise of presenting health information, GMHC used the occasion to engage in raw (in all senses of the word) homosexual propaganda aimed at teen-agers.

The Rainbow Curriculum is to this stuff as a salamander is to a brontosaurus. The circulars handed out to junior high and high school students include nude pictures of a woman with her legs spread to an approaching clenched fist (swathed in latex). Lesbian "fisting," the pamphlet explains, can be enjoyed if the participants are suitably armored with gloves. In fact, "fisting" is a painful and hazardous practice which has resulted in many injuries and one known death.

There are instructions in the proper methods for trying "golden showers" (sexual activity with urine), enemas (I kid you not), scalpels and razors. The section titled "welts and blisters" advises

Under the guise of fighting AIDS

the kids to "wear latex gloves and be sure to clean your canes, crops, whips, etc. See section on sex toys."

Young men, and particularly young black men, are told that anal intercourse is "safe" if done with a condom. I won't, in deference to the standards of family newspapers, reproduce the language used.

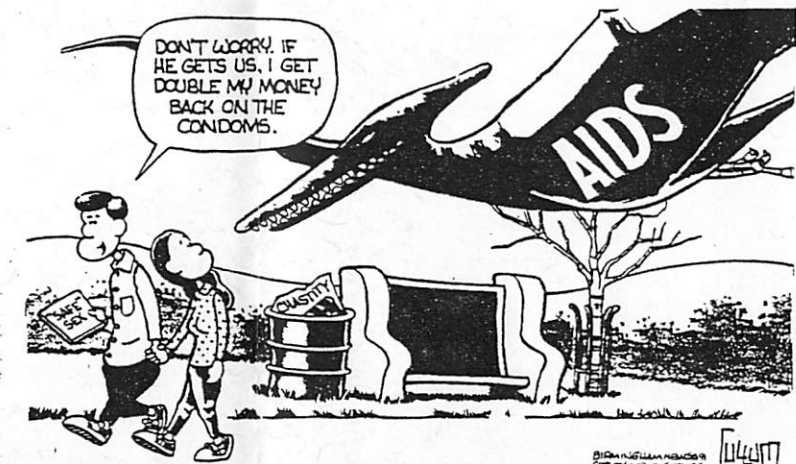
The conference, "Youth Teaching Youth About HIV/AIDS," was aimed at kids ages 12 to 24 and was held at New York University Medical Center on Feb. 12. The Board of Education cooperated by posting notices for the conference in high schools throughout the city, by making its office space, computers, fax machines and telephones available to the organizers, and by listing its own "High School HIV/AIDS Resource Center" as the conference mailing address. The Clinton administration also cooperated by sending its national AIDS policy coordinator, Kristine Gebbie, to participate in a question-and-answer session and deliver the closing address.

Parents were explicitly excluded

from the conference. When John Hartigan, a consultant to the Catholic Archdiocese of New York, warned the board that this amounted to discrimination based on age, the conference organizers claimed lamely that they were overbooked. On the day of the conference, however, a number of youngsters who had not preregistered were ushered right in.

Is this any way to fight AIDS? To tell children (in a conference at a medical center!) that anal intercourse is "safe" with a condom is unconscionable bordering on criminal. Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop described anal intercourse as "simply too dangerous" even with a condom. It has been called the "royal road" of HIV transmission.

As for the lesbian stuff, it amounts to an advertisement, in repellent detail, for sadomasochism. The cheerleading tone of the pamphlets also encompasses instructions on how to clean your needles and other "works" for intravenous drug use.



Most of the kids (there were about 200) who attended the conference were probably already leaning toward homosexuality. What they will have learned is not how to avoid HIV but that behaviors that ought to send people to psychiatric couches are being presented as mainstream. And all with the blessing of the New York Department of Education and the Clinton administration.

The Gay Men's Health Crisis and other activist groups are bent not on fighting AIDS, as they claim, but on preventing AIDS from spoiling their particular brand of fun. They cannot accept what some in the homosexual world are coming to grips with, namely that rampant anal

intercourse is per se dangerous activity. They have lulled themselves into a misplaced faith in condoms. But according to a study published in the July 1987 British Medical Journal condoms failed 26 percent of the time when used in anal intercourse. Other studies have shown a lower condom failure rate, about 15 percent, for vaginal intercourse.

Clorox and soap, condoms and dental dams, fists and knives, whips and chains, this is the stuff the New York Board of Education presents to 12-year-olds. This is what masquerades as fighting AIDS.

Mona Charen is a nationally syndicated columnist.